

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-51. (Canceled)

52. (Previously Presented) A method for placing a conduit in the wall of a patient's heart, the method comprising steps of:

- (a) providing a support member and an expandable conduit;
 - (b) from a position exterior to a coronary vessel, passing the support member first through a wall of a coronary vessel and then through the wall of a patient's heart;
 - (c) positioning the conduit within the wall of the heart; and
 - (d) removing the support member from the wall of the heart,
- wherein the conduit remains open during both systole and diastole.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein a sheath overlies the conduit, and further comprising the step of moving the sheath to expose the conduit once a shaft and conduit are positioned in the wall of the heart.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, further comprising the step of expanding the conduit within the wall of the heart.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein step (b) is carried out by first forming an opening extending at least partially through the wall of the heart and then passing the support member through the opening.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the conduit is passed through the wall of the coronary vessel and through the wall of the heart into a heart chamber containing oxygenated blood, and the conduit is positioned so as to place the heart chamber in communication with the interior of the coronary vessel.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the coronary vessel is a coronary artery and the heart chamber is the left ventricle.

58-59. (Canceled)

60. (Previously Presented) A method for placing and expanding a conduit in the wall of a patient's heart, the method comprising steps of:

providing a support member and a conduit, the conduit being supported in a collapsed orientation and movable to an expanded orientation;

passing the support member from a position exterior to a coronary vessel through a wall of the coronary vessel;
placing the support member and the conduit in a wall of a patient's heart;
positioning the conduit within the wall of the heart; and
removing the support member and leaving the conduit in the wall of the heart, wherein the support member passes through the wall of the coronary vessel prior to placing the support member in the wall of the patient's heart, wherein the conduit remains open during both systole and diastole.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the conduit is passed through the wall of the coronary vessel and through the wall of the heart into a heart chamber containing oxygenated blood, the conduit placing the heart chamber in communication with the interior of the coronary vessel.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the coronary vessel is a coronary artery and the heart chamber is the left ventricle.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the conduit is positioned in the wall of the heart so that one end of the conduit extends partially into the heart chamber.

64-108. (Canceled)

109. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein step (b) includes passing a sharpened end of the support member through the wall of the heart.

110-115. (Cancelled).

116. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, further comprising passing the conduit through the wall of the coronary vessel and through the wall of the patient's heart.

117. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 116, wherein the passing the conduit includes passing the conduit first through the wall of the coronary vessel and then through the wall of the patient's heart.

118. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60, further comprising passing the conduit through the wall of the coronary vessel and through the wall of the patient's heart.

119. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 118, wherein the passing the conduit includes passing the conduit first through the wall of the coronary vessel and then through the wall of the patient's heart.

120. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the wall of the coronary vessel is an exterior wall.

121. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the wall of the coronary vessel is an exterior wall.